

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/940,900

Applicant(s)

HINCKLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

DUC Q. DINH

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/24/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-12, 14-18, 42-50, 52-57 and renumbered as 1-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is response to the Amendment filed on March 24, 2005. An Office Action is provided as follows

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 5-12, 14-18, 42-50, 52-57 are allowed and renumbered as 1-32.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention related to a touch sensitive device for scrolling document on a display screen. Each independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct features as follows:

As per claim 5,

a central scrolling area extending along a longitudinal axis; and

first and second end scrolling areas positioned along the longitudinal axis on opposed sides of the central scrolling area, said first and second end scrolling areas being physically separate and spaced from the central scrolling area; and

first and second scroll input surfaces positioned immediately adjacent to said central scrolling area, and on opposing sides of and spaced from said central scrolling area in a direction perpendicular from said longitudinal axis, said first and second input surfaces enabling the scrolling of a document in opposite directions along a first axis.

As per claim 20,

a central scrolling area extending along a longitudinal axis and having a width in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, first and second scrolling area positioned along the longitudinal axis on opposed sides of the central scrolling area, said first and second end scrolling areas having a width that differs from the width of the central scrolling area, and

first and second scroll input surfaces positioned immediately adjacent to said central scrolling area, and on opposing sides of and spaced from said central scrolling area in a direction perpendicular from said longitudinal axis, said first and second input surfaces enabling the scrolling of a document in opposite directions along a first axis and wherein said device is part of a keyboard including an alphanumeric section.

As per claim 50,

a first touch-sensitive device having an elongated touch sensitive input surface;

a second touch-sensitive device having an elongated touch sensitive input surface, said second-touch sensitive device being spaced from and adjacent to said first touch-sensitive device; and

a physical divider disposed between first and second touch-sensitive devices, said divider having a contoured edge immediately adjacent the elongated touch sensitive input surface of at least one of said first and second touch-sensitive devices;

wherein said contoured edge is sawtoothed shaped assisting the user in locating a position between a top and a bottom of at least one of the first and second touch-sensitive devices.

The closest prior art of Yates et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,225,976) and Batio (U. S. Patent No. 6,081,207) show similar systems, but either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render above quoted limitations obvious.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2674


Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DUC Q DINH whose telephone number is (571) 272-7686. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00.AM-4:00.PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edouard Patrick can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DUC Q DINH
Examiner
Art Unit 2674


REGINA LIANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DQD
May 25, 2005